United Nations A/70/798–S/2016/266

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (a)
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the visit of the President of the Russian Federation, V. Putin, to the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the visit of the President of the Russian Federation, V. Putin, to the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

18 March 2016

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest against yet another visit uncoordinated with Ukraine of the Russian President and Russian officials on 18 March 2016 to Ukraine's temporarily occupied territory — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Attempts to celebrate the anniversary of Russian aggression against Ukraine and deceitful seizure of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are cynical, given the grave economic, social and humanitarian problems in the peninsula. In the course of the past two years, the Russian Kremlin occupants managed to bring Crimea back to Stalin's times of authoritarian rule, lawlessness and repressions. The aggressor State continues to violate human rights in the occupied territory and terrorizes dissidents. In fact, there is no freedom of speech, media or religion in the peninsula. Systemic abuses of the rights of Ukrainians and Crimean Tatar people take place on a daily basis.

The Russian Federation, as the aggressor State, its officials and illegal occupation authorities bear full responsibility for these and other violations, in accordance with the norms of international law.

These days, as it was two years ago, the whole international community has clearly condemned the aggressor State's irresponsible actions. Ukraine and all democratic nations of the world will double their efforts to free residents of the Ukrainian peninsula from the authoritarian rule of the occupation regime and to make Crimea free again.